



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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## South Central Montana Consortium Meeting

By Pete Mohan [pmohan@mt.gov](mailto:pmohan@mt.gov)

The South Central Montana Interoperability Communications Consortium (SCMIC) meeting was held in Ennis on Wed., Sept. 17. Steve Digiovanna, SCMIC Vice-Chairperson, opened the meeting, introduced participants, and requested a motion for meeting minutes approval. Gallatin, Madison, Meagher, Park and Sweet Grass progress reports were discussed.

Kerry O'Connell, SCMIC Project Director, briefed the group on the latest Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD), the Interoperability Montana Technical Committee (IMTC), and Interoperability Montana Governance Committee (IMGC) meetings and the affect of their decisions on the consortium. Kerry emphasized the importance of the various IMPD Standing Committees and their affect on the entire project.

The next meeting will be Wed., Oct. 8, beginning at 10:00, at the Meagher County Fire Training room, 101 W. Crawford St., in White Sulphur Springs.

## IM Technical Committee Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

Chairperson of the IM Technical Committee (IMTC), Bob McWilliams, opened the Mon., Sept. 22 IMTC meeting and reported on Administrative Committee decision making. Certificates of completion were signed for site walks at the Beaverhead EOC, the Butte 9-1-1 and Fleecer sites. Cold installations were performed at Pat's Knob, Bull Mountain, King and Blue. Spectrum fingerprinting was completed and signed off on at the Butte 9-1-1 center, Beaverhead EOC and at the Big Mountain sites. In addition, ice shields at Pat's Knob were installed.

Scott Bradford, Frequency Sub-Committee Chair, said that 19 frequency applications have been submitted, and he is in the process of completing 37 Letters of Concurrence (LOCs). He will be working closely with local jurisdiction IM representatives to complete them. Jack Spillman, Flathead County Radio System Administrator, explained issues and anticipated expenses associated with putting channel guards on the Silver Channel. Dave Clouse,

Northrop Grumman, reported on all the comprehensive progress that is being made on microwave engineering and construction. Members discussed issues surrounding network monitoring. The Deadman site will be finished by the end of the month and microwave will be installed by the end of Oct.; so, connectivity should be established to the far eastern part of the state by the end of next month. Getting the Northern Tier up and running is still the first priority, and just a few additional issues need to be resolved. The Contract Management Sub-Committee, under the IM Governance Committee, is meeting every other Friday with the purpose of ensuring that all contracts are closed out properly.

Regional dispatch centers, referred to as Trunking Enabled System Access Points (TrESAPs), have a direct interface into the master zone controller. The IM Project is providing funding to the Gallatin County Dispatch Center, so it will be a TrESAP. Plans are to more actively involve PSSB's 9-1-1 staff in future planning since they are experiencing increased local inquiries about equipment that is eligible for PSAP funding.

IMTC members provided updates on action items from the last meeting and approved an RF conditioning combiner for the Cominco site. The latest version of the Site Development Process document was reviewed. Participants heard a report on the Makoshika tower study and discussed various microwave path solutions. Everyone approved a recommendation to fund Northern Tier cross connects and termination at the Lewis and Clark Law Enforcement Center to complete microwave connectivity. They also listened to Bob McWilliams' report on recent Motorola site walks and grounding bar issues. Access issues also were discussed as well as generator maintenance and extended warranties.

Members reported on activities taking place within their consortia. Scott Bradford, PSSB, also reported that Sabre Tower is the winner of the construction general manager contract.

The next formal IMTC meeting will be Mon., Oct. 27 at the State Capitol in Helena at 9:00 am. A special IMTC meeting is being arranged for Tues., Oct. 21 in conjunction with the Montana APCO conference in Billings to discuss a five-year build-out plan.



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## Western Interoperability Consortium Meeting

By Pete Mohan [pmohan@mt.gov](mailto:pmohan@mt.gov)

The Western Interoperability Communications Consortium (WICC) met at the Ravalli County Courthouse in Hamilton at 10:00 am on Tues., Sept. 23. Project Director, George Gupton, reported on the recent Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD) board meeting, the IM Governance Committee and Staffing Sub-Committee meetings. George also reported on the activities at the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) conference in Hamilton.

Consortia members discussed the latest areas of interest in their jurisdictions and discussed site requirements in Mineral and Ravalli counties to tie into the IM Project as well as the regional aspects of tying in the microwave system with Idaho. Ravalli County sites that will tie into Beaverhead County will be evaluated in the early October time periods for confirmation of the microwave path. In addition, the group discussed preparing for COPS Technology and FEMA Assistance to Fire Fighters grants when the grant application periods open. The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled at 10:00 am on Tues., Oct. 14, in Polson with the meeting place location to be announced.

## IM Website Update

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

A behind-the-scenes change has taken place on the Interoperability Montana website located at <http://interop.mt.gov>. We have switched to a new software program for updating the web pages, and we request your help in locating broken links and/or missing documents.

Please let us know if you notice a link that doesn't work correctly by sending an e-mail to [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov) or [ccastle@mt.gov](mailto:ccastle@mt.gov). Thanks in advance for your help!

## Upcoming Meetings

### Sept. 29

Mobile Data Consortium (MDT)  
Bozeman • 10:00 am - 12:00 noon  
Best Western City Center Motel, 507 W Main St.

### Oct. 1 (Please Note Date Change)

Tri-County Consortium  
Helena • 10:00 am-12:00 noon  
Dept. of Corrections Annex, behind 515 N. Sanders St.

### Oct. 1

Sustainability Plan Work Session  
Helena • 1:00-5:00 pm  
Dept. of Corrections Annex, behind 515 N. Sanders St.

### Oct. 2

Northern Tier Consortium (NTIC)  
Havre • 9:00 am  
Great Northern Inn, 1345 1<sup>st</sup> St.

### Oct. 6

IM Finance Committee  
Helena • 9:00 am - Noon  
Anderson & ZurMuehlen • 828 Great Northern Blvd.

### Oct. 6

IM Governance Committee  
Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm  
DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

### Oct. 7

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
State Capitol, Room 152

### Oct. 8

Central Consortium (CMICC)  
Great Falls • 10:00 am  
Wheat Building, 750 6th Street SW

### Oct. 8

South Central Montana Consortium (SCMIC)  
White Sulphur Springs • 10:00 am  
Sheriff's Office, 101 W. Crawford St.

### Oct. 9 (Please Note Date Change)

Eastern Tier Consortium  
Glendive • 10:00 am - 12:00 noon  
Law Enforcement Center, 440 Colorado Blvd.

### Oct. 16

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium  
Butte • 10:00 am  
Chamber of Commerce; 1000 George St.

### Oct. 21

IM Technical Committee – Five-Year Planning Meeting  
Billings • 8:30 am  
Billings Hotel & Convention Center  
1223 Muldowney Lane

### Oct. 21

Frequency Sub-Committee meeting  
Billings • 1:00 pm  
Billings Hotel & Convention Center  
1223 Muldowney Lane

### Oct. 22-23

Montana APCO Conference  
Billings • Billings Hotel & Convention Center  
1223 Muldowney Lane  
More information at: <http://www.mtapco.org>

### Oct. 27

IM Technical Committee (IMTC)  
Helena • 9:00 am-3:00 pm  
State Capitol, Room 172